



Pakistani-American Community Luncheon

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer

Sunday, July 18, 2010

Sah-LAHM ... Ah-LAY-kum (*Meaning: Hello.*)

Thank you for inviting me to be a part of this luncheon celebrating the Pakistani-American community.

I do look forward to these celebrations.

I know they started in 2002, and I recall being in Sardar's lovely home in April.

So, now this has become so popular that you've expanded to the Phoenix Airport Marriott.

I would not be surprised if next year you have to book the University of Phoenix Stadium!

You know, I'm hard at work getting Arizona back on track.

I thank you for standing with me and I'm proud to say that we've been getting the job done for Arizona – reducing spending, balancing the budget, fighting Obamacare and illegal immigration, demanding border security, protecting education, attracting jobs, and leading Arizona's comeback.

Since becoming Governor, I've assisted in attracting more than 2,500 high-value jobs to Arizona and over \$1.1 billion in new capital investment.

We've permanently reduced state general fund spending by over \$2.2 billion and the state employee count by more than 10 percent.

In the midst of these cutbacks, reductions and streamlining, I appreciate the opportunity to come here and say thank you for all you do in our community.

You strengthen it.

You care about it.

You enhance the quality of life through its diversity.

You also make it work.

The Pakistan Information and Cultural Organization has contributed over 11,000 volunteering hours – everything from Habitat for Humanity, to the Heard Museum, St. Mary's Food bank, the Salvation Army, and St. Vincent de Paul.

Of course, your most precious gift to America – and to Arizona – are the people who have become proud citizens of our country.

So, thank you for providing this wonderful way to highlight Pakistan's personal heritage, as well as the vitality of a great and historic democracy.

So let us draw strength from the words of the great Pakistani poet Muhammad Iqbal, who said, "In the midst of today's upheaval, give us a vision of tomorrow."

You all have helped with that vision of tomorrow for Arizona. I treasure your affection, friendship and guidance as we travel together on the road less traveled into a prosperous future.

Thank you.

Allah Hafiz (*Meaning: May Allah be your protector.*)